

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 003530

O 050650Z APR 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 171
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE
COMUSSAG NIACT IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6001

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND JCS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH: EAGLE PULL

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 5982; (B) STATE 076475

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARA ONE
REF B, WE ARE PROCEEDING TO REDUCE OFFICIAL MISSION STAFF
TO MINIMUM OF 50 KEY PERSONNEL, AS DETAILED BELOW. THIS
REDUCTION CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED ENTIRELY ON APRIL 5,
BUT WILL BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 6. ALL THOSE DEPARTING
WILL GO BY FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FROM POCHENTONG.

2. OUR REMAINING MISSION STAFF, TOTALLING FIFTY, WILL
BE MADE UP OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:

(A) EXECUTIVE SECTION (3)
AMBASSADOR JOHN GUNTHER DEAN
ROBERT V. KEELEY, DCM
MISS BEVERLY SMITH, SECRETARY

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(B) POLITICAL-MILITARY SECTION (1)

RAYMOND L. PERKINS, POL/MIL COUNSELOR

(C) POL/MIL-3 (5)

DAVID D. WHIPPLE, POLITICAL/MILITARY OFFICER

MISS HEIDI AUGUST, SECRETARY

WALTER E. MACLEOD, TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

DENNIS G. O'BOYLE, TCU

DONALD RIEBHOFF, TCU

(D) ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION (18)

ARTHUR E. GOODWIN, JR., ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR

CHARLES G. WILLIAMS, GSO

ALVIN H. CHIN, DO

MISS DOROTHY SCHWERTFEGER, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

GEORGE S. STURGEON, COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR

GYSGT. CLARENCE D. MCCLENAHAN, MSG

SGT. RUSSELL H. CUTLER, MSG

SGT. GARY STANTON, MSG

SGT. RALPH V. SIMPSON, JR., MSG

CPL. MARTY L. GRAQGN MSG

CPL. ALLEN W. MITCHELL, MSG

CPL. DAVID L. RAGLAND, MSG

CPL. PHILIP D. FORSYTH, MSG

CPL. JAMES D. COX, MSG

LCPL. RONALD C. DUMOSCH, MSG

CPL. MICHAEL G. MICIOTTO, MSG

LCPL. ALLEN J. BECKER, MSG

(E) CONSULAR SECTION (1)

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, III, CONSUL

(F) USIS (1)

JAMES D. MCHALE, PAO

(G) USAID (4)

NORMAN SWEET, ACTING DIRECTOR

VERNON W. PETERSON, AIRLIFT COORDINATOR

WILLIAM NIESE, AIRLIFT COORDINATOR

JEFFREY V. MILLINGTON, RELIEF COORDINATOR

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(H) USDAO (7)

COL. LOUIS B. MARTIN, DEFENSE ATTACHE

MAJ. FRANKLYN B. BASSETT, ASST. ARMA

MAJ. LOUIS J. STURBOIS, ASST. ARMA

MAJ. JAMES A. WRIGHT, CCF CDR.

SP6 LEROY ELFMANN, INTEL. ASST.

SSGT. JESSE THOMAS, JR., CCF COMMUNICATOR

SSGT. DAVID SNEDDON, CCF COMMUNICATOR

(I) MEDTEC (10)

BG WILLIAM W. PALMER, CHIEF

COL. RICHARD J. SCHIMBERG, DEP. CHIEF

COL. REGINALD T. LOMBARD, JR., SPEC. ASST.

COL. ROBERT E. PATTERSON, CHIEF AF DIV.

COL. WILLIAM A. MALOUCHE, CHIEF ARMY DIV.

LTC. EDWARD S. RYBAT, NEMVAC OFFICER

LTC. DENNIS L. ASKELSON, TRANSPORTATION OFFICER

MAJ. JOHN J. XENAKIS, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

YN1 FLOYD ROE, TYPIST

YN1 GEORGE MAINS, TYPIST

3. WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE TO ADD ELEVEN PERSONS TO THE ABOVE LIST, MAKING A TOTAL OF 61 MISSION STAFF, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE MORALE OF FANK, TO RETAIN SIX ASSISTANT ARMY ATTACHES, ONE AIR FORCE ATTACHE, AND ONE NAVY ATTACHE. THESE ARE OFFICERS WHO ARE IN DAILY CONTACT WITH THE FORCES IN THE FIELD, THE DIVISIONS AND BRIGADES AROUND THE PHNOM PENH PERIMETER, THE KAF AND THE MNK. THEIR DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE SCENE SUDDENLY WOULD BE LIABLE TO BREAK FANK MORALE, WITH DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SECURITY OF THE CAPITAL. IF THEY CONTINUE WITH THEIR WORK, THE MASSIVE REDUCTION OF THE AMERICAN MISSION WILL BE MUCH LESS NOTICEABLE TO THE COMBAT TROOPS ON THE LINE. IN ADDITION, THESE ASSISTANT ARMA'S PROVIDE US WITH DAILY REPORTING ON THE TACTICAL MILITARY SITUATION THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR PLANNING FOR ALL CONTINGENCIES. THE DAO COMPLEMENT WE ARE OTHERWISE RETAINING IS MAINLY INVOLVED WITH SI, WHICH WE CONSIDER ABSOLUTELY

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ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUE.

(B) THE ADDITION OF ONE CCF COMMUNICATOR TO THE DAO COMPLEMENT. DATT ADVISES ME THAT WITHOUT THIS ADDITIONAL PERSON HE WILL NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF DESTROYING HIGHLY SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO AN EVACUATION AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO DESTROY IT NOW, THUS ELIMINATING THE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL CCF CAPABILITY.

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 003697

O 050650Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 172

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6001

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND JCS

(C) ONE ADDITIONAL STATE C&R OFFICER. TRAFFIC IS SO HEAVY, DESPITE THE MINIMIZE, THAT TWO PEOPLE CANNOT HANDLE THE JOB. PERHAPS A WEEK FROM NOW THIS ADDITIONAL C&R OFFICER COULD BE SENT OUT.

(D) RETENTION OF FSO TIMOTHY M. CARNEY, BECAUSE OF HIS KHMER LANGUAGE CAPABILITY AND AS BACK-UP TO THE COUNSULAR OFFICER, WHO CANNOT COVER THAT SECTION FULL-TIME UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS.

4. WE HAVE NOT COUNTED IN THE ABOVE MISSION STAFFING PATTERN TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE TEN MEMBERS OF THE GROUND SECURITY FORCE (ADVANCE PARTY), COMMANDED BY COLONEL BATCHELDER, WHO ARE HERE TO PREPARE FOR EAGLE PULL SHOULD THAT CONTINGENCY BECOME NECESSARY.

(B) THE EIGHT USG MILITARY PERSONNEL MANAGING THE AIRLIFT AT POCHENTONG. STARTING TODAY WE PLAN TO REVERT TO THE EARLIER SYSTEM OF HAVING ALL BUT ONE OF THESE

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EIGHT PEOPLE ARRIVE ON THE FIRST PLANE AND DEPART ON THE LAST PLANE OF THE DAY. ONE MEMBER OF THIS CARGO CONTROL TEAM WILL HAVE TO OVERNIGHT IN PHNOM PENH IN ORDER TO BE ON THE GROUND TO TALK TALK THE FIRST PLANE OF THE DAY IN.

5. THE DEPARTMENT MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IN ADDITION TO THE 50 (OR 61) PERSON MISSION DETAILED ABOVE, WE RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE EVACUATION CONTINGENCY FOR THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF PEOPLE:

(A) 48 AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENTS, OF WHOM 3 ARE AMCIT VOLAG PERSONNEL. THE REMAINDER ARE PILOTS, MISSIONARIES AND TEACHERS, AND THEIR AMCIT DEPENDENTS. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED THEIR DEPARTURE, BUT WITH VERY LIMITED SUCCESS.

(B) 8 KHMER NATIONALS WHO ARE DEPENDENTS OF THE AMCIT RESIDENTS IN CATEGORY (A) ABOVE.

(C) AN INDETERMINATE NUMBER OF "TRANSIENTS," WHOM WE HAVE BEEN ESTIMATING TO NUMBER ABOUT FIFTY. WE HAVE ALSO ENCOURAGED THESE PERSONS TO LEAVE, BUT THEY ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO MOVE, AS THEY MAKE THEIR LIVELIHOOD, SUCH AS IT IS, HERE OR LEAD LIVES OF QUIET DESPERATION. LET'S BE HONEST AND CALL THEM BUMS, IMMOVABLE BUMS.

(D) 36 AMERICAN CITIZEN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS. SOME HAVE BEEN ORDERED OUT BUT OTHERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED IN. THEY WANT TO WRITE ABOUT OR FILM THE LAST DAYS OF PHNOM PENH AND WE SEE NO WAY TO CONVINCE THEM OTHERWISE.

(E) 9 TCN'S WORKING FOR AMERICAN PRESS MEDIA. THESE WERE ADDED TO OUR EVACUATION RESPONSIBILITY BY THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY.

(F) 11 TCN'S WHO ARE USG EMPLOYEES. TEN OF THESE WORK FOR FEC AND MAINTAIN OUR ESSENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND TACAN SITE. THE ELEVENTH IS ESSENTIAL TO OPERATION OF THE CONTINUING USAID AIRLIFT.

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(G) 5 UNICEF PERSONNEL, ONE OF WHOM IS AN AMCIT. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY WILL EVACUATE OR STAY BEHIND, BUT THEY WERE INCLUDED IN OUR EVACUATION PLAN AT THEIR REQUEST AND WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN THEY WILL COME WITH US.

6. THERE REMAIN TWO OTHER GROUPS, BOTH MADE UP OF KHMER NATIONALS: THE KEY INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL WITH THEIR DEPENDENTS AND THE MISSVBNL'S LOCAL EMPLOYEES PLUS THEIR DEPENDENTS. REF B, PARA THREE, "AUTHORIZES" ME, ONCE I HAVE REDUCED THE OFFICIAL MISSION TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM, "TO NOTIFY AND BEGIN EVACUATION OF KEY INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL AND KHMER EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES BY FIXED WING." AS I HAVE REPEATEDLY POINTED OUT TO THE DEPT, ONCE THE PEOPLE IN THESE CATEGORIES BEGIN TO DEPART PHNOM PENH, THE MORALE OF THE GKR AND THE FANK WILL COLLAPSE AND EAGLE PULL WILL BECOME IMPERATIVE. I DECLINE TO TAKE THIS STEP AND REQUEST SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPT -- NOT "AUTHORITY" BUT INSTRUCTIONS -- TO NOTIFY AND BEGIN THE EVACUATION OF THE KIP'S AND THE KHMER EMPLOYEES OF THE USG. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH THE DEPT SHOULD UNDERSTAND COULD RESULT IN THE COLLAPSE OF THE GKR SIDE, I WILL PLAN TO INCLUDE THESE CATEGORIES, SIMULTANEOUSLY, IN ANY EVACUATION WE UNDERTAKE OF OUR OWN MISSION AND THE OTHER GROUPS FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE.

7. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS ADVISED US THAT THEY COULD HANDLE (WITH THE RTG) A STAMPEDE OF UNDOCUMENTED KHMER EVACUEES, BUT A TRICKLE OF THEM, AS PROPOSED BY PARA THREE OF REF B, WOULD CAUSE THEM SERIOUS PROBLEMS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE RTG WOULD NOT BE UPSET BY A LARGE INFLUX OF KHMERS FOR WHOSE ONWARD MOVEMENT WE WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY, BUT A SLOW BUT STEADY INFLUX INTO THAILAND OF KHMERS GOING TO WHAT AMOUNTS TO A "SAFE HAVEN" WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR EMBASSY BANGKOK. THEY MAY WISH TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS ASPECT.

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8. FYI. WE CURRENTLY HAVE ON OUR ROLLS 294 KHMER EMPLOYEES, AND THEY HAVE 566 DEPENDENTS, MAKING A POTENTIAL FOR THIS CATEGORY OF 860.
DEAN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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